Amount allocated for NER

93. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for NER and its percentage in total Budgetary provision of each Ministry during the last three years indicating amount actually utilised and amount transferred to Non-lapsable pool of resources; and

(b) the allocation made against specific NE sub-head during the last two years by each Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Discontinuation of Gold Deposit Scheme

94. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of discontinuing the Gold Deposit Scheme which was started to bring the idle gold kept in the household into circulation;

(b) if not, what steps RBI is taking to make it more attractive;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the rate of interest for gold depositors; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised the banks concerned to give more publicity to the Scheme and to request State Governments to direct temple trusts to deposit their gold with banks.

(c) and (d) According to RBI, the rates are appropriate in the present scenario of low interest rates.